

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - DECEMBER, 1945.

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PART I PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

SEASON. A large proportion of the State is in need of rain. The north western plains, the far west, southern inland areas and the metropolitan section of the coast are very dry and over much of these areas pasturage barely suffices for current needs. In main dairying districts conditions are relatively favourable, but would improve with farther rainfall. Stock generally have held condition well, even in the drier districts, and harvesting has been facilitated by the dry spell.

WOOL. The appraisalment of wool was resumed in Sydney on January 7th after a month's suspension due to the ban on the use of light and power.

The quantity of wool appraised in Sydney in the half year ended December was 419,702 bales in 1945 compared with 514,141 bales in 1944. Over the same periods wool received in Sydney was 696,169 bales and 639,332 bales, respectively; the figures reflecting speedier transport of the smaller 1945-46 clip.

Indicative of progress in reviving activity in Continental mills, exports of wool tops from the United Kingdom in January-September, 1945 reached 11.12 m.lbs. - threefold those of January-September, 1944. Some sections of the wool trade, however, doubt the practicability of auction selling of wool being resumed successfully in the coming season.

World sheep numbers at 718 million are estimated to be 63 million below the 1933-34 total, and current wool production, about a million bales (or 8%) less than in 1933-34.

WHEAT. Harvesting proceeded under generally favourable conditions. Wheat production in Australia in 1945-46 is now estimated at about 135 m. bushels comprising 53.6 m. bushels in N.S.W., 32.5 m. bushels in Victoria, 20.7 m. bushels in South Australia, 20.5 m. bushels in Western Australia and 7.5 m. bushels in Queensland.

Wheat allocated for stock feeding in 1945-46 is 30 m. bushels and a large quantity is expected to be milled for export as flour. Wheat growers are now receiving cheques covering the first advance on wheat delivered at the rate of 4s. 4d. for bagged and 4s. 1d. a bushel for bulk wheat, at sidings.

DAIRYING INDUSTRY. Because of recurrent dry spells in the late Spring, butter production in N.S.W. did not expand in the degree hoped for, and in October, 1945 the quantity made was 0.9 m. lbs. less than in October, 1944. Preliminary figures for November also show regression. In the four months ended October, the factories made 19.9 m. lbs. of butter in 1945 or 0.5 m. lbs. more than in 1944, but 7.7 m. lbs. below the average in 1937-39. Over the four months more cheese was produced in 1945 than in 1944.

BUTTER PRODUCED - N.S.W. FACTORIES.

Period	Average '37-38 to '39-40 m.lbs.	1941-42 m.lbs.	1942-43 m.lbs.	1943-44 m.lbs.	1944-45 m.lbs.	1945-46 m.lbs.
July - June	113.9	85.1	93.8	87.9	71.7	...
July	5.0	4.6	5.2	3.3	2.4	3.3
August	5.4	4.6	5.3	3.3	3.1	4.0
September	7.1	5.9	6.0	4.9	5.4	5.0
October	10.1	7.5	7.5	8.6	8.5	7.6
Total, July-October	27.6	22.6	24.0	20.1	19.4	19.9

Over the four months a decrease of nearly 8.7 m. lbs. in Victoria partly offset by an increase of over 4.8 m. lbs. in Queensland was the major element in the decrease (to 94.3 m. lbs.) of 4.6 m. lbs. in Australian butter production. Conditions in these two States also dominated

Australian cheese production for the period, though the quantity made was only a little less than in 1944 and nearly 0.5 m. lbs. more than in 1943 at 29.6 m. lbs.

BUTTER AND CHEESE PRODUCED - AUSTRALIAN FACTORIES.

Period.	Butter (million lbs.)			Cheese (million lbs.)		
	1943.	1944.	1945.	1943.	1944.	1945.
Year ended June	368.2	337.8	307.2	80.6	80.0	77.1
September	26.0	28.1	24.4	8.1	8.8	8.6
October	38.0	37.7	35.6	11.8	11.8	11.7

Suppliers of cream to certain North Coast factories were paid 18d. (including 2.9d. subsidy) per lb. of commercial butter in November 1945 compared with 16.6d. (including 3.5d. subsidy) a lb. in November, 1944. The rate (exclusive of deferred pay) was 6.25d. a lb., or 53 per cent. greater than that of November, 1939.

N.S.W. BUTTER - PAY TO SUPPLIERS OF CREAM TO CERTAIN NORTH COAST FACTORIES.

Item.	Month of November				1945.		
	1939.	1942.	1943.	1944.	September.	October.	Novem..
	Pence per lb. of Commercial butter.						
Monthly Pay	11.75	13.25	13.25	13.09	15.15	15.12	15.11
Deferred Pay	.75	1.44	1.00	.75	(a)	(a)	(a)
Subsidy86	3.80	3.54	5.60	3.38	2.89
							(b)
Total Pay	12.50	15.55	18.05	17.38	20.75(b)	18.50(b)	18.00

(a) To be fixed after December (b) Excluding deferred pay.

GENERAL. EGGS. Production is declining seasonally. The recent arrival of 2½ million eggs was the first consignment of Australian eggs in shell to the United Kingdom since 1942.

OATS. for stock and poultry feeding are to be sold by the Barley Board at 3s. 3d. a bushel in truck lots delivered at sidings; buyer to pay railage in excess of 4d. a bushel.

PART II FINANCE AND TRADE.

GENERAL. Banking. The Commonwealth Bank Industrial Finance Department, established to afford accommodation for business enterprises, particularly small businesses began operations on January 2nd, 1946. Overdraft rate is $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and fixed loans carry a maximum rate of $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Housing loans (see Building Industry, page) were also made from that date.

The Rural Bank of N.S.W. earned a profit of £81,852 in the year ended June, 1945 (£1,180 more than in 1943-44).

Exchange with the French franc (following its devaluation) moved from francs 160 to 383 to £A.1 on 27th December, 1945.

A Minister to Chili has been appointed, initiating Australian diplomatic representation in that country.

The State Government intends appointing an Agent-General in London before June, 1946.

A Premiers' Conference is to be held in Canberra on January 22nd to discuss - inter alia - possible revision of uniform taxation arrangements.

Cumberland County Council, created last year to recommend re-organisation of local government areas and a plan for future development of the Sydney Metropolitan area, has appointed a Chief County Planner.

N.S.W. STATE ACCOUNTS. During November, 1945, revenue amounted to £5.52 m. and expenditure to £6.27 m. Compared with November, 1944, this represents a regression on the month of £25,000.

Over the period July to November, the aggregate accounts were more favourable in 1945 than in 1944 by £187,000, revenue being greater by £987,000 and expenditure by only £800,000. Consolidated revenue fund receipts increased by £484,000 (including £390,000 for taxation and stamp duties) and payments by £247,000 (including ordinary departmental expenditure, £258,000). Main Roads and Sydney Harbour accounts were £406,000 and £100,000 respectively more favourable than in 1944. A regression of £324,000 disclosed in the Railway accounts was attributable mainly to a rise in expenditure, of £350,000. For the same period, the net results of the trams and 'buses and the Road Transport and Traffic Fund also showed regressions of £87,000 and £45,000 respectively.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

July to November	Revenue (£000)				Expenditure (£000)				Excess of Expenditure. (£000)
	Consolidated Revenue	Bus. Undtkgs. ø	Main Roads	Total	Consolidated Revenue	Bus. Undtkgs. ø	Main Roads	Total	
1944	8,866	16,122	884	25,872	14,961	12,291	1,068	28,320	2,448
1945	9,350	16,320	1,189	26,859	15,208	12,845	1,067	29,120	2,261
Movement	(+) 484	(+) 198	(+) 305	(+) 987	(+) 247	(+) 554	(-) 1	(+) 800	(-) 187

ø Railways, Trams and 'Buses, Road Transport and Traffic Fund and Sydney Harbour.

RETAIL TRADE. In a group of large Sydney stores, the increase of 37.9% in the value of sales in September, 1945, as compared with September, 1944, was a record. The volume of sales has mounted steadily during latter months, partly the result of the relaxed scale of rationing, and there are indications that this trend continued during the Christmas shopping period despite unemployment attendant upon widespread industrial inactivity due to the light and power ban. In September the value of stocks was 4.9% greater than last year; the smallest "corresponding month" increase for several months.

RETAIL TRADE - EXPERIENCE OF LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) from corresponding period previous year.

Year	Value of Sales						Value of Stock	
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Aug.-Oct.	Oct.	Aug.-Oct.
1942	(-)19.1	(-)15.6	(+) 5.7	(-) 7.0	(-)17.3	(-) 6.6	(+) 2.1	(+) 6.9
1943	(-) 1.3	(-)25.5	(-)20.7	(-)11.5	(-) 9.9	(-)14.3	(-) 9.1	(-)10.2
1944	(+) 2.7	(+) 3.8	(+)11.8	(+) 3.7	(+) 5.6	(+) 7.0	(+) 4.3	(+) 4.5
1945	(+)19.3	(+)31.6	(+)16.6	(+)21.1	(+)37.9	(+)25.0	(+) 4.9	(+) 8.9

Marked increases during October, 1945 as compared with October, 1944, in the sales of furniture and hardware (41% for furniture, 47% for building materials, tools, etc., 225% for electrical goods) and of household piece goods (53%) reflect fewer restrictions on trade and increased building activity. Sales of wearing apparel were considerably greater, but stocks were maintained except in some departments (e.g. hosiery). Boots and shoes for long in short supply showed increases in sales of 21% and stocks of 16%. Also worthy of note were increases in sales of fancy goods (49%) and sports and travel goods (87%).

RETAIL TRADE - SALES BY LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage movement from same month in preceding year.

Month of October	Wearing Apparel				Household Piece Goods	Furniture and Hardware
	Dress Piece Goods	Women's Wear	Men's & Boy's Wear	Boots & Shoes		
1942	(-)44.2	(-)30.7	(-)27.3	(-)11.2	(+) 6.4	(-) 9.2
1943	(+)38.1	(+)13.8	(+) 1.7	(+) 6.9	(-)43.3	(-)38.6
1944	(+)29.3	(+) 7.7	(+) 6.2	(-) 5.2	(+) 3.4	(+) 3.3
1945	(+)34.6	(+)36.4	(+)60.8	(+)20.7	(+)53.2	(+)50.3

PART III INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT, ETC.

GENERAL. Resumption of Work by coal miners (after 16 days holiday) enabled all restrictions on the use of light and power (but not the rationing of coal) to be lifted from January 7th, 1946. Ironworkers, who had been idle in an industrial dispute (in some areas for about three months) and the majority of enterprises rendered idle by the light and power ban resumed work on that day.

Coal production in N.S.W. in 1945 was about 10 million tons compared with 11.2 million tons in 1944 and 12.34 million tons in 1942.

Shipping. An Australian Shipping Board was established and the Salvage Board regulations were repealed on December 20th, 1945. As from January 1st, 1946 the functions of the Central Cargo Control Committee were taken over by the Shipping Board and wartime controls over movement of ships and cargo were relaxed considerably.

Airways. The Commonwealth Government has re-affirmed its intention to establish and operate competitive passenger and freight interstate airlines.

Wartime Controls. Restrictions on the manufacture of trailers, and hand and garden tools have been removed.

EMPLOYMENT IN N.S.W. Total employment (excluding rural workers and household domestics) decreased by 7,900 in October following upon a decrease of 8,200 in September, 1945. Of the two months' decrease, 11,000 occurred in private and 5,100 in Government employment. The decrease in private employment, whilst demobilisation was attaining substantial volume may be attributed to retirement from war work of persons not normally occupied, to major cuts in war production, and to industrial dislocations (including, in October, effects of the Bunnerong dispute).

With a reduction of 3,300 in October, the number in Government employ had fallen 6,500 in the last three months. In private employment the two months' decrease neatly offset the gains of the preceding ten months but the number on private payrolls was 27,400 (males 19,700) above the pre-war level, though 35,500 (males 39,000) below the war-time peak of December, 1941.

ESTIMATED SALARY AND WAGE EARNERS EMPLOYED IN N.S.W.

(Excludes Rural Workers and Household Domestics but includes Civil Construction Corps.)

End of Month.	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL		
	Govt. (a)	Private	Total	Govt. (a)	Private	Total	Govt. (a)	Private	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1939-July	136.5	393.4	529.9	19.4	148.6	168.0	155.9	542.0	697.9
1941-Dec.	146.4	410.1	556.5	33.4	203.9	227.3	169.8	614.0	783.8
1943-July	156.6	365.4	522.0	45.8	204.1	249.9	202.4	569.5	771.9
1944-Aug.	153.2	369.0	522.2	45.4	206.5	251.9	198.6	575.5	774.1
Sept.	154.2	369.4	523.6	44.4	207.3	251.7	198.6	576.7	775.3
Oct.	152.5	370.7	523.2	44.7	207.8	252.5	197.2	578.5	775.7
1945-Aug.	155.6	379.2	534.8	42.8	210.3	253.1	198.4	589.5	787.9
Sept.	155.3	374.1	529.4	41.3	209.0	250.3	196.6	583.1	779.7
Oct.	154.2	371.1	525.3	39.1	207.4	246.5	193.3	578.5	771.8

(a) Commonwealth, State, local and Allied.

The major variation in employment by industry during October, 1945 was the further decline of 5,800 males and 3,500 females in factory employment, (giving a loss of 11,800 males and 6,800 females in the two months) partly the result of the tapering-off of munitions production and of industrial disputes 1,300 fewer men were engaged on A.W.C. projects, and there were 1,200 fewer

males in the mining (mainly coal) industry. Other main industrial groups showed increases in employment for the month - 600 males in transport and communication, 700 males and 400 females in retail trade, 700 and 200 in other commerce and finance, and 700 and 300 in personal and professional services.

ESTIMATED TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

End of Month	Factory		Mining & Quarrying		A.W.C. Projects	Transport & Communication		Retail Trade		Other Commerce and Finance		Professional & Personal Services (a)	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1939-July	158.8	59.3			Not available.								
1941-Dec.	213.2	81.8	25.8	.2	...	81.8	8.4	41.2	44.3	42.6	19.2	52.3	58.2
1943-July	217.4	94.6	25.1	.2	14.4	81.5	12.9	28.7	38.5	33.2	20.5	43.3	62.3
1944-Aug.	216.3	92.0	24.4	.2	6.1	85.2	14.0	28.7	37.2	34.6	20.4	45.8	66.1
Sept.	215.4	91.5	24.7	.2	6.5	85.4	14.0	28.6	37.3	35.1	20.8	45.9	66.7
Oct.	215.9	91.0	24.7	.2	7.0	84.1	14.0	28.7	37.7	35.2	20.8	46.0	67.4
1945-Aug.	214.3	87.6	24.8	.2	5.9	88.7	14.6	30.2	39.5	36.4	20.7	48.3	69.2
Sept.	208.3	84.3	24.7	.2	4.8	87.6	14.4	30.8	39.7	37.0	20.9	48.7	69.6
Oct.	202.5	80.8	23.5	.2	3.5	88.2	14.4	31.5	40.1	37.7	21.1	49.4	69.9

(a) Including Education, Health, Hotels, Restaurants, and Professional and Personal Services (Except private domestics).

BUILDING INDUSTRY. Stoppages in the iron and steel and coal mining industries aggravated the shortages of material which have retarded the revival of the building industry in the last few months, and although work was resumed in those industries on January 7th, 1946, it will be sometime before shortages of bricks, nails, and p.c. items can be overcome.

In November, 1945 the value of private building permits granted in Sydney and suburbs was £758,000 (including £633,000 for houses - new, additions and repairs), compared with £187,000 in November, 1944 (£39,000 for houses). Government building projects arranged for in the metropolis in November, 1945 totalled £547,000, or nearly fourfold the total (£144,000) for November, 1944. Of the respective totals £511,000 and £57,000 were for new houses. The aggregate for the Metropolis over £1.3 million for the month, was in excess of the pre-war monthly average value.

Due to the much higher cost of building and the fact that currently entry upon building is long delayed (and in some cases not undertaken at all) after grant of permit, comparisons of value do not afford a satisfactory measure of relative activity in the building industry, though a significant revival from wartime low level is certainly apparent.

In N.S.W. outside the Metropolis, Government projects in November, 1945 were £192,000 (£133,000 for 100 new houses) compared with £138,000 (£27,000 for 29 new houses) in November, 1944.

VALUE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDING.

Period.	Metropolis			Government		Total Col.1 and 5.
	Private	Government	Total	Country	Total, N.S.W.	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Monthly average value in £000.						
Year 1940	977	74	1,051	223	297	1,274
1944	134	146	280	91	237	371
Jan.- Nov., 1945	436	390	826	172	562	998
Mar. Qr. 1945	171	203	374	119	322	493
June " "	247	308	555	107	415	662
Sept. " "	550	587	1,137	256	843	1,393
November, 1944	187	144	331	138	282	469
" 1945	758	547	1,305	192	739	1,497

HOUSING. Under the Building Operations and Building Materials Control Act, no authority, other than the permit of a local governing authority, is required from January 2nd, 1946 to erect houses containing in brick 1,250 sq. ft. or in wood, fibro, etc. 1,200 sq. ft.

To facilitate use of substitute materials and for economy in coats and in use of scarce materials, amendments have been made to building ordinances (e.g. bricks may be used "on edge" for specified walls). Applications for permission to build flats (up to six dwelling units) villa pairs, duplexes, etc. up to the average of 1,250 sq. ft. per unit are to be considered favourably. Applicants for war service homes are to be permitted to build privately and may be financed up to £1,250 instead of £900 as formerly. The Commonwealth Bank commenced business in the making of housing loans as from January 2nd, 1946. The maximum loan is £1,250 or 85% of bank's valuation, and the rate of interest is 3 $\frac{7}{8}$ %. The State Housing Commission had 1,650 houses under construction at the end of 1945 and had acquired and sited 4,000 building allotments and had a further 2,350 allotments available for future projects. Tenders to be called early in 1946 will initiate the erection of flats (at Balmain $\frac{1}{2}$ by the Commission.

In November, 1945 private permits for new houses in the metropolis numbered 565 (compared with 52 in November, 1944 and an average of 476 during the year 1940) and 420 new houses (excluding 50 dwelling units by conversion of army huts) were arranged on Government account. The combined total (985), though less than in either September or October, 1945 far exceeded the number in any wartime month and was nearly 200 greater than the aggregate for the whole of the year 1944.

NEW HOUSES - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

	1940	1944	1945.						Total Jan- Nov. 1945.
			Mar.Qr.	June Qr.	Sept.Qr.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
		Monthly average number.							
Private	476	29	87	181	440	443	623	848	565
Government	3	37	37	95	295	125	565	362	(a) 420
Total	479	66	124	276	735	568	1,188	1,210	(a) 985

(a) Excludes 50 converted army huts.

RAILWAYS. In November, 1945, as in preceding months, there was a moderate increase in the number of passenger journeys and a marked decrease in tonnage of goods and livestock hauled on the State railways in comparison with the corresponding month of each of the preceding three years. In the five months ended November gross earnings were slightly lower in 1945 than in 1944 and nearly £1.6 m. or about 11 per cent. below the peak earnings in July-November, 1943, mainly due to reduced goods traffic consequent upon the falling off in war goods, effects of the 1944-45 drought, and curtailment of train mileage because of the shortage of coal. Net earnings for the period were £460,000 less than in 1944 and £1,665,000 less than in 1942. Notwithstanding the curtailment of services, working expenses in July-November, were £426,000 and £540,000 greater in 1945 than in 1944 and 1942, respectively.

Further severe restrictions upon railway services operated during December, 1945, necessitated by a general stoppage in coal mines.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

	Month of November						Net earnings /
	Passenger Journeys	Goods and Livestock	Gross earnings.	Passenger journeys	Goods and livestock	Gross earnings	
	Millions	'000 tons	£000	millions	'000 tons	£000	£000
1938-39	15.5	1,513	1,630	79.5	5,853	7,825	1,894
1942-43	20.0	1,647	2,715	96.2	8,451	14,427	4,925
1943-44	21.0	1,669	2,816	102.6	8,520	14,876	4,567
1944-45	19.5	1,628	2,630	103.1	8,137	13,336	3,720
1945-46	21.1	1,414	2,635	109.2	7,178	13,302	3,260

/ Gross earnings less working expenses - available to pay interest, etc. on railway loan debt.

TRAMS AND 'BUSES. Passenger journeys have increased slightly to a record level and in the five months ended November, 1945 reached 228.2 million, an increase of 49 per cent., compared with July-November, 1939. With fares unchanged, travel concessions to service personnel, and working expenses mounting, financial results have regressed seriously. For the five months, the ratio of working expenses to gross earnings increased from 85.9% in 1939 to 95.4% in 1945 and net earnings (£112,000) were a little less than on half those of July-November, 1944 and 58 per cent. below those of July-November, 1942.

During December, 1945 tram traffic was affected by the severe rationing of power and was suspended at week ends when skeleton services were maintained by buses. British manufacturers are soon to deliver 200 new diesel engined bus chassis for the Department.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAM AND 'BUSES - SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

Year	Month of November			Five months ended November.			
	Passenger Journeys	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Passenger Journeys	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Net Earnings
			(a)			(a)	(b)
	Millions	£000	£000	Millions	£000	£000	£000
1939	31.5	370	309	153.2	1,798	1,544	254
1942	40.9	460	394	201.4	2,283	2,017	266
1943	42.4	471	425	210.8	2,332	2,144	188
1944	45.1	482	435	226.6	2,399	2,165	234
1945	45.5	483	441	228.2	2,426	2,314	112

(a) Excluding depreciation. (b) Gross earnings less working expenses, available to meet interest, depreciation, etc. on loan debt.

MOTOR VEHICLES. New vehicles registered in N.S.W. in November, 1945 averaged only 65 (including 5 cars and 60 lorries and vans) a week. Trade in new cars is likely to expand shortly as vehicles are now arriving from overseas. The maximum profit on sale of imported cars has been fixed at a level giving traders a return of 30 to 35 per cent.

Reregistration of used vehicles continues as the major element in the upward trend in total registrations. During November, there were increases of 1,459 in 1944 and 2,639 in 1945. The increase in July-November, 1945 of 8,265 vehicles (2,669 greater than in July-November, 1944) included 1,861 cars and 4,456 lorries and vans. Cars on the register at 187,300 remain 13 per cent. below the pre-war number but lorries and vans at 87,400 exceed the number in August, 1939 by nearly 13 per cent.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN N.S.W.

Type of vehicle.	New registrations.			All registered motor vehicles.				Increase July-Nov.		
	Nov. 1939	Nov. 1944	Nov. 1945	No. at end of-				1939	1944	1945.
	Av. no.	per week		Aug. 1939	July 1942 x.	Nov. 1944	Nov. 1945			
				000	000	000	000			
Cars	368	10	5	216.6	170.0	183.5	187.3	98	2,562	1,861
Lorries & Vans	169	65	60	77.6	70.9	79.9	87.4	863	1,894	4,456
Total vehicles	537	75	65	329.2	267.4	291.5	306.6	590	5,596	8,265

o Total cars, lorries, and vans only for new registrations.

x Lowest war-time number of cars.